

**From:** Bill York  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/11/02 3:37pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

Upon hearing about the solutions for the settlement in the Microsoft case I was appalled to hear that a company that has committed so many grievous acts against other smaller corporations would be handed so light a sentence.

Perhaps the one part of the settlement that disturbs me the most is the fact that Microsoft donate \$1 billion in refurbished computers and software to schools to use. While at first glance this may seem like a very noble cause in truth this settlement enables Microsoft to leverage their monopoly even more.

What will happen is that the refurbished computers will consist of PC's and the software will be Microsoft based software. Now being a software engineer myself I'm very well acquainted with the business model when it comes to producing software. There is an initial large cost up front for the design, development, and testing of the software. But once this cost has been fulfilled and the software developed the costs associated with mass producing the software, often involving copying the software code to a CD, printing of any manuals, and then the boxing and shipping of the product are relatively inexpensive. Using this cycle it is fairly easy for Microsoft to refurbish the cost of the initial investment. But because of this methodology they can easily produce a billion dollars worth of software and yet barely have their bottom line impacted because of the cheap costs associated with producing the CD, manuals, and packaging.

If you truly want to penalize Microsoft then make them pay \$1 billion dollars to be distributed to the school systems so they can spend the money how they see fit. These individual school districts can then go out and purchase a non-PC devices and software produced by other companies than Microsoft. This in turn will help foster competition and will come much closer to realizing the goals of this antitrust lawsuit in the first place.

Thank you for reading,

William York

P.S. The comments sent to the Dept of Justice does NOT reflect my employer's opinion and is solely my own opinion.

=====  
William York  
1254 Bluebird St.

Brighton, CO 80601